



# Department of Ecology

September 2021 - Agency Update

David Bowen, Nuclear Waste Program Manager

# Outline

- Recruitment
- Ecology Office of Equity and Environmental Justice
- B-109 Tank Update
- Holistic Negotiations
- Tri-Party Agreement Negotiations
- Compliance & Permitting Activities

# Recruitment

## Priorities:

- Re-engage recruitment efforts to fill vacancies
- Fill acting positions with permanent appointees
- Knowledge transfer and mentoring the next generation of our team is critical for long-term success

## Workforce Development:

- Ecology staff have supported three WorkForce Washington and CBC sponsored job fairs online.
- We have spoken to more than 40 job seekers.
- While many are entry level and we have no current positions, we believe it is important to educate potential future employees and college students about jobs with the State of Washington.

# Recruitment

NWP finalized our organizational structure changes earlier this year and recruitment to fill new and existing vacancies is a priority

- Current recruitments
  - Communications Manager
  - Toxicologist 2
  - Permit Writer/Unit Lead
- Coming soon
  - Science and Engineering Supervisor - **New**
  - Environmental Restoration Project Manager
  - Senior SWOC Closure Permit Specialist
  - Permitting and Facility Transition Supervisor – **New**
  - Senior Transition RCRA/CERCLA Specialist

# Office of Equity and Environmental Justice

- Millie Piazza – Long time Ecology Environmental Justice Coordinator was appointed Manager of the Ecology Office of Equity and Environmental Justice
- Millie will be leading the way for our agency and coordinating with the Governor's new cabinet office, Governor's Office of Equity and Environmental Justice
- Ongoing process improvements to attract and retain a diverse workforce

# Outreach & Education

Let's Talk About Hanford live short courses stream through WebEx & Facebook, Topics to-date include:

- Hanford History Part I with Robert Franklin of the Hanford History Project pre-Hanford-1945
- Get to know the managers with David Bowen & Stephanie Schleif of Ecology
- Salmon, Sturgeon and More with Paul Hoffarth of WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

Next Tuesday!! Hanford History Part II – 1945-1990

# B-109 - Next Steps

The Tri-Party Agreement sets forth the process that USD OE and Ecology must follow when a potential Single Shell Tank (SST) leak has been detected.

- USD OE confirmed B-109 as a leaking tank through the leak assessment process and notification was made April 29, 2021
- USD OE and Ecology Project Managers have been working to reach unanimous agreement regarding an appropriate response – currently discussing content of a potential Agreed Order
- If unanimous agreement is not reached, Ecology retains the ability to initiate an enforcement action directly under its Hazardous Waste Management Act (HWMA) authority.
- Ecology can issue an administrative order to compel compliance.

# Holistic Negotiations

- Ecology proposed holistic negotiation of tank waste retrieval, treatment
- Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service facilitates discussions
- EPA is participating in the sessions in addition to USDOE, US Department of Justice, Ecology, and the Washington State Attorney General's Office
- Per mediation agreement, and to encourage open discussion, the parties agreed to not discuss details of status or progress during the negotiations
- After a July vacation pause the parties continue to meet



# Tri-Party Agreement Negotiations

- Tri-Parties have suspended 14 TPA milestones
  - M-15 series, remedial investigation/feasibility studies of contaminated soil
  - M-16 series, 221-U Canyon demolition and barrier construction
  - M-85-70, remedial investigation/feasibility study for the B Plant & geographic vicinity
- The suspended milestones were affected by Congressional appropriations in Federal Fiscal Years 2018-2021
  - These milestone were changed in 2016 <https://pdw.hanford.gov/document/0079636H>
- Purposes of the suspension are to:
  - Allow the parties to negotiate new near-term (FY22-24) milestones by January 2022
  - Develop a path forward for the suspended milestones, with a check-in January 2022
- Tri-Parties haven't yet developed specific public involvement opportunities for these negotiations, and will follow the TPA Public Involvement Plan

# Ecology Compliance Activities

## June 2021 to August 2021



### Inspections Conducted

- Perma-Fix Northwest – June 2, 2021 and June 11, 2021
- Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility (WESF) – June 15, 2021
- 325 Building Hazardous Waste Treatment Units – June 23, 2021
- 222-S Laboratory Complex – June 29, 2021
- 241-CX Tanks – July 8, 2021
- Hexone Storage and Treatment Facility – July 8, 2021
- Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) & Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) – August 5, 2021
- Single Shell Tank System – August 25, 2021

# Ecology Compliance Activities

## June 2021 to August 2021

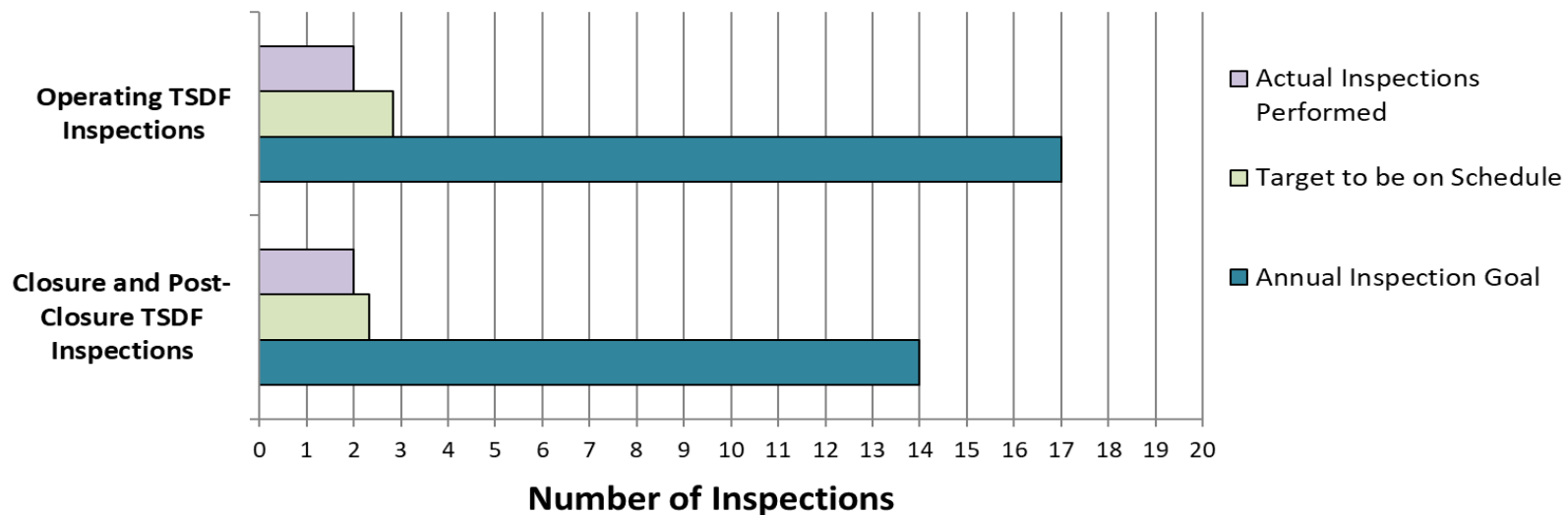


### Compliance Reports Issued

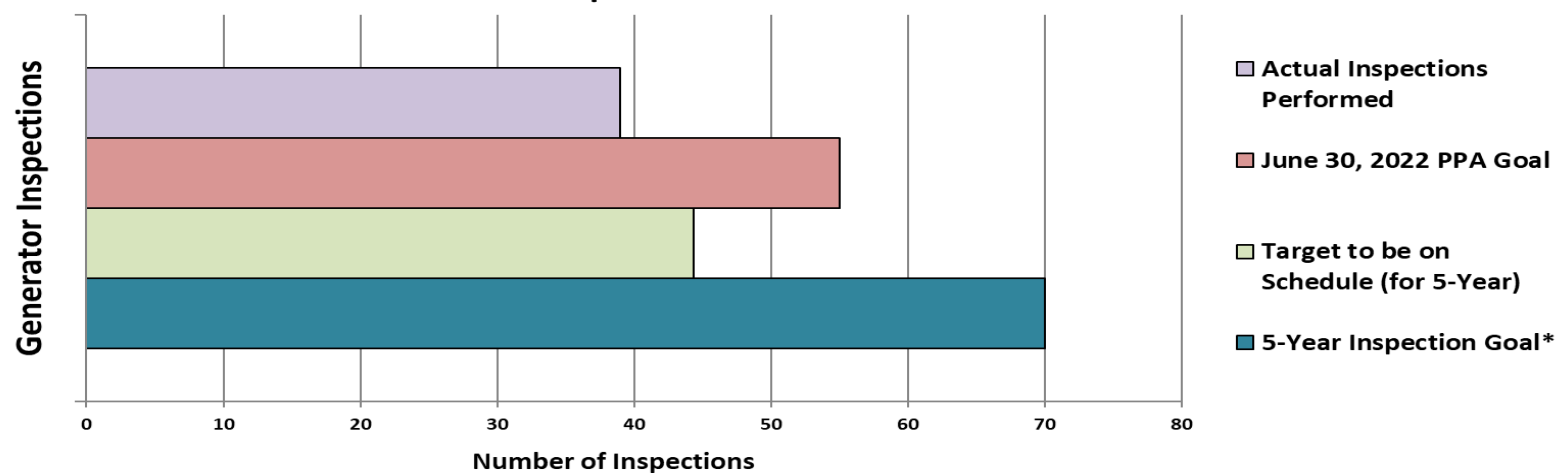
- Closure and Post Closure Groundwater Units – June 25, 2021
- Centralized Consolidated Recycling Center – June 23, 2021
- Double Shell Tank System – July 9, 2021
- Central Waste Complex and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility – August 26, 2021
- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard – August 26, 2021

# Inspection Goal Performance

## Inspection Goal Performance Measures



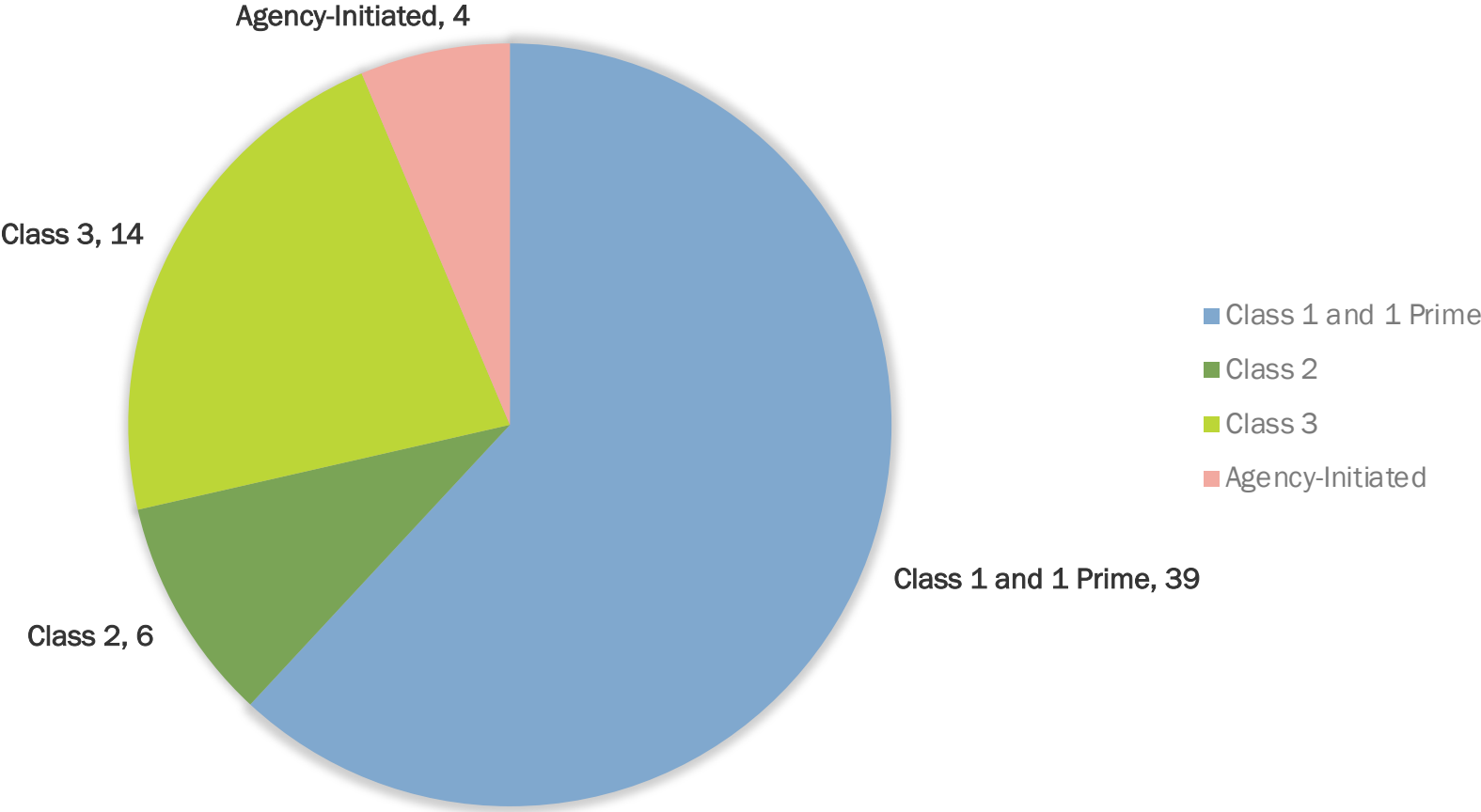
## 5-Year Performance Partnership Agreement Generator Inspection Goal Performance Measure



\*Due to changes in generator areas, the 5-Year inspection goal may change when Ecology receives the annual list of generator units at Hanford. The 5-year tracking performance measure started on 7/1/2018 and ends on June 30, 2023.

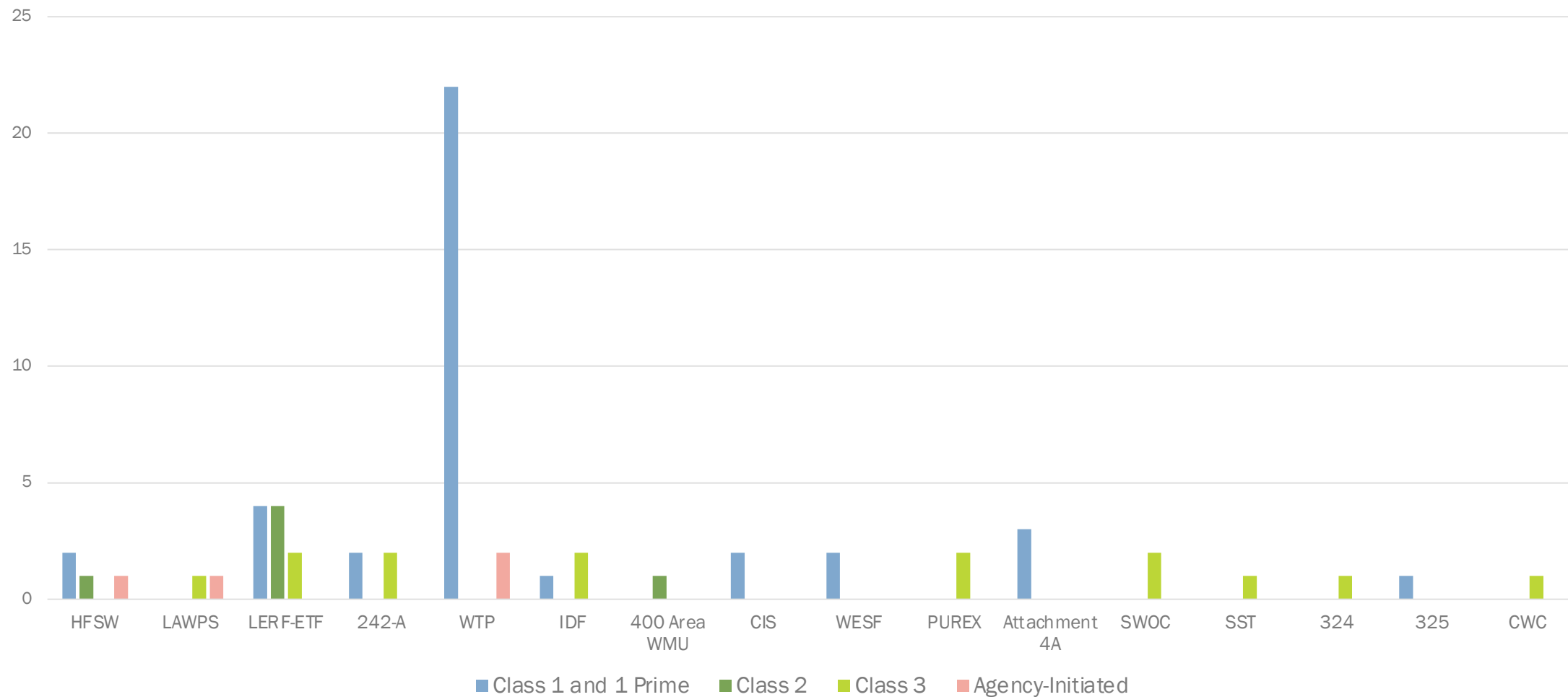
# Hanford Site-wide Permit Rev. 8c Permit Modifications

HANFORD SITE-WIDE PERMIT, REVISION 8C PERMIT MODIFICATIONS



# Hanford Site-wide Permit Rev. 8c Permit Modifications by Unit Group

Hanford Site-wide Permit, Revision 8c Modifications



# Opportunities for Public Involvement



Unit	Public Comment Period
<b><u>Class 3 Permit Modification</u></b> – (Second Portion) The Class 3 permit modification will propose operating information in the Integrated Disposal Facility.	September 13-October 28, 2021
<b><u>Class 2 Permit Modification</u></b> – The permit modification will propose an updated to Chapter 6A – Inspection Schedule in the WTP Permit.	October 5 – December 3, 2021
<b><u>Class 3 Permit Modification</u></b> – The permit modification will propose language to incorporate the Modular Grout System for the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 East Area Effluent Treatment Facility (LERF-ETF).	Fall/Winter 2021
<b><u>Class 2 Permit Modification</u></b> – LERF-ETF is proposing a permit modification to install a Distillate and Brine Storage Tank and Distillate Loadout.	Fall/Winter 2021
<b><u>Class 2 Permit Modification</u></b> – The Class 2 permit modification proposes updates to the Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the LERF-ETF.	Fall/Winter 2021
<b><u>Class 2 Permit Modification</u></b> –The proposed modification describes the decontamination procedures used at the LERF Basins and 200 Area ETF Tank systems is planned for Fall/Winter 2021.	Fall/Winter 2021

# Opportunities for Public Involvement



Unit	Dates
<b><u>Class 2 Permit Modification</u></b> : The permit modification will propose language to describe the updated leak detection system on the 310/311 transfer lines.	Late Winter/Early Spring 2022
<b><u>Criteria and Toxics Approval Order Modification</u></b> – DE07NWP-003 - Modification for the construction of LERF Basin 41 and operation of all LERF Basins to receive DFLAW effluent.	Spring 2021
<b><u>Criteria and Toxics Approval Order</u></b> – New approval order for the site-wide water infrastructure upgrades project.	Late Spring/Early Summer 2021



# Acronyms Legend

HFSW: Hanford Facility Site Wide  
LAWPS: Low Activity Waste Pre-Treatment  
LERF-ETF: Liquid Effluent Retention Facility-Effluent Treatment Facility  
242-A: 242-A Evaporator  
WTP: Waste Treatment Plant  
IDF: Integrated Disposal Facility  
400 Area WMU: 400 Area (Fast Flux Test Facility) Waste Management Units  
CIS: Cesium Interim Storage  
WESF: Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility

PUREX: 221-A Building aka PUREX Plant complex  
Attachment 4A: attachment to the permit “Building Emergency Directors/Building Wardens  
SWOC: Solid Waste Operations Complex includes T Plant, Central Waste Complex, Waste Receiving and Processing facility  
SST: Single Shell Tank System  
324: 324 Building  
325: 325 Building  
CWC: Central Waste Complex



# Questions?

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